1938

8 FITZROY STREET, W.1. March 17

Here is your share of John Murray cheque

We're expecting you to dinner on Saturday. If you came a little early you might inspect the beauties of our garden.

Please tell Leonard that if he can find any use for an incompetent like myself in the political world I am willing (the usual). But I know it's not much good. At the same time when things have got to such a pass I don't see how the least politically minded can keep out of it – I can read & write – even type-write. & have no pride.

But I suppose it's no use unless one has taken part in it all the years & it doesn't seem to be much good then.. Why don't you go to America, where I hear from Elly that

the more continent worships you
& that they "travel on the privilege"
of knowing you. I'd send
Angelica with you to keep you
happy Love VB

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

8 Fitzroy Street,
W.1.
Museum 5596.

The letter from Sue was enclosed in a letter to me.

June 21 1938

Yes. You may be invited & with reason. I love Willard Hearly, Mrs & Duncan's insistence, and (2) Clive. Price I think £3.0. each but we may be over the top. Yes I am very attached to Dale & up to & I look at nice little inn I in which we by & by which is inevitable. Yours

Your letter & card reminded me vaguely & the past - not so vaguely either now I come to think of it - I really remember the atmosphere of Corby very clearly - As for the Italian churches etc. You must write en route I hope you've taking snaps & them. I find them work difficult (believe in them the Patient spinsters. No doubt they exist & I think you might to spend a good deal of time in their company. I hope you also keep a literal record of meals at British Restaurants. We spent the week end at Charleston in perfect weather Jamie was there, unchanged. Today the Bussys have their annual cocktail party to which I didn't go - & tonight the Clarks give a

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The letter from Sue was enclosed in a letter to me -

June 21 (1938)

Yr. Yr way be gratified & with reason. I have ordered him Heally, Wrip & Duncan's insistence, £3.3.0. each. but me only £2 Chairo. price I think The other his very affair very congratulate up & look at nice & letter ins I in sitting ins by & view by & which is mistake is mistake & was

Yr letter & card reminded me vaguely of the past - not so vaguely either now I come to think of it - I really remember the atmosphere of Corby very clearly - As in the Italian churches etc. Yr meet with en route I hope you've taken snaps of them. I find them very difficult (believe in them the Patient spinsters. No doubt they exist & I think you might to spend a good deal of time in their company. I hope you also keep a complete record of meals at British Restaurants. We spent the week end at Charleston in perfect weather. Jamie was there, unchanged. Today the Bussys have their annual cocktail party to which I detest so - & tonight the Clarks give a

party to which everyone in London except myself is going. What a blessing it is simply to have decided that one will not go to parties. The more I think of it the less reason I see for going. If one likes to encounter humans why not do so in their ways – any way that doesn't entail dressing up. At any rate when one has reached my age dressing up is no longer a pleasure.

So I sit peacefully at home & write to you. I have been wondering lately how on earth you writers manage. Getting Julian's ideas ready to be printed has nearly done for me. Perhaps I am by nature too slip shod. I make the most idiotic mistakes & I never have the right paraphernalia of scissors, paste etc. However I think at last all is done & I shall send them to the Press tomorrow or the next day.

8, Fitzroy Street,
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I was rung up by Mrs John the day you went. To my surprise he began by asking me what was happening about the book so I said "haven't you had a letter from me?" I had written the night before & sent it to the H.P. to tell him just what had happened – It turned out that the grumpladies of the Press had sent it on to his country address. So then I had to tell him by telephone. I asked if he would see Leonard. He said no. You had told him it was no good coming. I must say I thought he seemed a good deal upset – he said he was ready to see Leonard at any hour, had come back a surprise basket – even found a letter, etc. But I daresay it was only a momentary upset due to my telling him that Julian's letters to him weren't going to be put in. I don't know. Anyhow you will hear.

He certainly didn't approve of leaving out all the Chinese letters, but realized that it was not his affair. In the end I simply said that I hoped all would be ready by the middle of next week & I would send the M.S. to the Press.

I had a long talk with Clive at second about the book & I showed him the letters after we got back. He was really been very nice & sensible about it all & I think was relieved by my talking to him. He is very much in favour of the letters & thinks them very good - also he thinks we should not cut too much. only things that are actually libellous or indecent. He is not as much against redundancy as Bunny is, as he says - it's always a mistake in letters. He thinks it's that we should not lose the intimate things which show real relationships - which is a relief to me - sometimes I am surprised at printing so much. But I don't really mind at all! After all what does it matter. I don't like

This is a long dull complicated business letter & should be addressed to the PRESS

8, Fitzroy Street,
W.1.

July 1. 1938

Museum 5596.

I'm afraid I shant see you this next week as I'm going down to Charleston tomorrow this Sunday morning. Duncan & Angelica are both away at work & many engagements here. I'll be up on Monday.

Your letter gave us all great pleasure & had no news comparable to send you in return. Besides we can't believe that the country (& you) can stop raining & the days can be very fine. I was very glad to hear your adventures.

Tom Leonard told & very much interested me about his account of John etc - Dealings with him have been one of my few bits of news - no doubt you will see him before you & me & hear what he has to say. But meanwhile I may say that it was no good thinking I could simply send the M.S. to the Press & leave it at that. I did send it last week. Then John rang me up 2 or 3 days later to say he had read it & wanted to come & see me which I could very well do just. When he came he proceeded to give me his views, which were - first that

he objected very much to the Roger essay which he thinks much less good than the other two. As to that I was firm, for though it may be true its less good stories, no doubt Julian wanted it published & I promised to act as done if I could. It will be necessary however for me to go through it carefully & try to correct obvious mistakes - things which Julian himself had marked in the copy I have which I think is for me he finally corrected. Have you another? If so it might be useful for comparison with this one. I'm going to do this with Quentin this Sunday & will return it on Monday. Then John objected to the baldness of the short biographical note we had put at the beginning which I see nothing but facts. He thought Bunny's memoir so slight that the general public would want to know more. I showed him Maynard's notice in the King's report which he hadn't seen & suggested putting that instead if you agree. Bunny. Now I have seen since writing this might be a good plan so I am going to ask Maynard whether he would allow it.

Then of course John was still worrying very much upset at having some of his letters put in. Bunny is quite decided

8, Fitzroy Street,
W.1.

Museum 5596.

that it would be a mistake to put in
any earlier than the Chinese ones. & I
think in any case it would be impossible
to in this book for first time &
see world of enough. John's alone, which I have
read again, would not be enough - so much
would have & be cut that they'd simply be
an isolated fragment - But we have
finally decided & put in 3 letters & John.
two from China & one just before leaving for
Spain - which I hope may be a step in time.
I think it would be a mistake & leave out all
mention of him as he & Julian certainly took
very intimate at one time.

John's other criticisms & suggestions were
minor I think - but I hope by now he
has settled down. One other thing - he
was still very anxious & get something from
someone who had seen Julian in Spain.
I have asked him & find out from Richard Rees
whom he knows, whether he could write a short
note - as if John does he asking me would
not be absolutely committed & it - if one doesn't
like it. If I ask him he would be almost bound

to have it. But John can be more tentative & can say he's not sure whether we want it. I think that's all about John.

I shall leave the whole book again at the Press on Monday with the essay corrected as far as possible - I suppose further corrections could be made later but John seemed to want some done at once. We have put in one or two more letters & taken out one or two. The principal ones put in are the two to me at the end - One was already in but Bunny thought I had cut too much of it - So it is now in completely & the two written at the same time - both only given to me after his death - one is put in too. Also the covering letter to Eddy. You may like (or) these before sending the M.S. away - & I'd like to know if you think it's a good thing to publish them.

Also I've chosen 4 photographs - They seemed the best I have - Just possibly Lettice has some more but I don't think so

Well - time is to prepare you before you see your portrait & give you my version of what I meant to paint your character being going on. But of course however - the Sunday

(187)

# GRAND HOTEL

14. RUE DES CARMES
CASTELNAUDARY

FOURCADE, PROPRIÉTAIRE

TÉLÉPH. 2-08
C. C. P. Toulouse 331-67
R. C. Castelnaudary 1566

CONFORT MODERNE — EAU COURANTE
CHAUFFAGE CENTRAL — GARAGE

*Emportez . . .*

LE CASSOULET INCOMPARABLE
EN BOITE OU EN CASSOLE

LE DÉLICIEUX FOIE GRAS TRUFFÉ
Spécialités de la Maison

Le 26 Sept 1938

This paper is so inviting that I'm actually typing a letter, but I daresay it won't get very far. We have just arrived here, one of the cheerier of the stop places (she is in charge of the chorale of food) fairly early in the afternoon & have got rooms & washed - My room is approached by way of a large salon with waxy lotte & plaid & huge bunches of artificial flowers & antimacassars - so I am sitting in it, very grand - the first time I've sat at a waxy table since we started. We haven't seen any English papers except the Daily Mail since we left & we wonder how the English are feeling here where one seems to be getting agitated. It is said that people are flying south & the later yesterday at Albi there was an agitated lady with her master & husband who had brought them here for safety as he was called up Everyone is reading the papers & the shop people talk to me about the situation & try to find out what we think, being English

I wonder if Leonard & Maynard will think war unlikely. & how Clive is getting on. It's difficult to believe Chamberlain & Rodmell are still going on we seem to have been in such a Kaleidoscopic world - but perhaps when we get to Cassis it will seem nearer. We think we might get there on Wednesday - & I hope very much I may find a letter from you

Duncan & I dined in our baby - & Quentin & Angelica in his car - They cause a sensation whether in car or in boat - Quentin is so immense & Angelica usually battles & wild - I think they're both enjoying it enormously. & that it's rather good for Angelica to have got quite away from her theatrical life. However. what we shall do if war really breaks out, as I myself cannot help feeling it may do at any moment, I don't know. I suppose the French wouldn't want strangers & we might have to try & get back — God, what an awful world it is. I think the Mannins were going to Paris for a week 2 or 3 days ago, so we shall go to St. Rémy now, but perhaps you'll be coming here later - If nothing happens I should think we shall be at Cassis well on into October anyhow It's now pouring wet rain unfortunately, as it may pour in the South. But on the whole we have been lucky with weather & cars, though we have to avoid much hill climbing with the baby.

Please write & tell me all gossip & news from

(188)

30th Sept 1938

La Bergère Friday.

Your letter written on Wednesday has just come — the posts are much quicker nowadays. We got the news of Chamberlains speech & Hitlers invitation yesterday morning — & today everyone is rejoicing — I think we are lucky to have been out of all the talk & fearing that must have been going on in civilized quarters We ourselves have hardly discussed the situation, once we had grasped the news — it seemed useless. But I've never had such a sense of horror & calamity coming nearer & nearer as we drove through France — helped by the weather which got worse & worse. The French were evidently expecting the worst — & everywhere groups of men standing silent waiting — & large crowds at night waiting for the last news. Of course lots of men were being called up & people coming south when their husbands had to go off. One was always being talked to by people in shops & strangers in restaurants discussed it all with each other — it seemed to me simply 1914 over again only worse. When we got here the colonel had the news that the Germans had notably marched in at 2 o'clock that day — but Quentin thought it might be untrue as it was. The relief today is very great. We shall get the Times of yesterday later. I wish one knew the inner history. & why Hitler summoned the conference in the end. Was he at last aware of what it would mean — or did Roosevelt send a private message saying America would have to come in — I suppose there are lots of rumours & no one knows. But one can't help hoping

something really might be done now to stop this
horror - surely it is the moment to try - My own
private views, which no doubt will think of great
importance, is that they should meet at once a
method of summoning the heads of the great powers
only, to meet - Perhaps you will see to it. & let
me know. Don't let the small powers in - they'll only
confuse things & have to be squashed poor things as I
suppose the Czechs will now be. What is thought
of my friend Neville? I myself give him a good
deal of credit for being the first to start face to face
talks but I daresay Kingsley H. & his friends still
object - Clive I imagine will be more in his favour than
ever. Well, that's more than enough of politics.
It's very quiet here - still inclined to rain - but with
times of sunshine & quiet. Will you two come to
St Remy? Let me know It's odd to be living
in this house again, with Elise coming as she used &
we shall have as much furniture as we really need &
quite a lot of nice things. Angelica was a child when
we were here before - now she cooks our supper & is
rather more grown up than the rest of us. I feel incredibly
old - as indeed I am - But one doesn't realize it so
much till one comes back to a place one hasn't been
to for years - at Christmas one wasn't actually in one's
own house. Now we have been pulling out all the old
paintings etc we left here & a box of old clothes. Quentin
left, some pm Eddy about - Julian's portable marriage &
Helen Spurling & such like. The grapes aren't picked
here yet - you might both come for the vintage. On the way we
saw vineyards flooded & the wretched people picking in torrents
of rain. From my window I can see bunches of black grapes
hanging. Aren't you tempted. Please write soon (that's why
I'm very welcome soon & VB

T. PARSONS 3.2.73